



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,432	12/06/2001	Shau-Chi Chi	39734-176754	8720
26694	7590	07/01/2004	EXAMINER	
VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD AND CIVILETTI, LLP			SCHEINER, LAURIE A	
P.O. BOX 34385				
WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1648	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,432

Applicant(s)

CHI, SHAU-CHI

Examiner

Laurie A. Scheiner

Art Unit

1648

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/21/03 & 12/6/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1648

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The recitation of "non-infective" renders the claim language improper; it is asserted that the recitation of "non-pathogenic", or similar language, would more closely describe what is intended.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. *In re Rasmussen*, 650 F.2d 1212, 211 U.S.P.Q. 323 (C.C.P.A. 1981). *In re Wertheim*, 541 F.2d 257, 191 U.S.P.Q. 90 (C.C.P.A. 1976). Essentially, the claim is drawn toward a fish viral vaccine. Additional limitations are provided concerning viral infectivity. The written description requirement under Section 112, first paragraph, sets forth that the claimed subject matter must be supported by an adequate written description that is sufficient to enable anyone skilled in the art to make and use the invention. The courts have concluded that the specification must demonstrate that the inventor(s) had possession of the claimed invention as of the filing date relied upon. Although the claimed subject matter need not

Art Unit: 1648

be described identically, the disclosure relied upon must convey to those skilled in the art that applicants had invented the subject matter claimed. *In re Wilder, et al.*, 222 U.S.P.Q. 369 (C.A.F.C. 1984). *In re Werthheim, et al.*, 191 U.S.P.Q. 90 (C.C.P.A. 1976). *In re Driscoll*, 195 U.S.P.Q. 434 (C.C.P.A. 1977). *Utter v. Hiraga*, 6 U.S.P.Q.2d 1709 (C.A.F.C. 1988). *University of California v. Eli Lilly*, 119 F.3d 1559, 43 U.S.P.Q.2d 1398 (Fed. Cir. 1997). *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.*, 18 U.S.P.Q.2d 1016-1031 (C.A.F.C. 1991). *Fiers v. Sugano*, 25 U.S.P.Q.2d 1601-1607 (C.A.F.C. 1993). *In re Bell*, 26 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529-1532 (C.A.F.C. 1993). *In re Deuel*, 34 U.S.P.Q.2d 1210-1216 (C.A.F.C. 1995).

Applicant's disclosure fails to provide adequate written support for the invention as broadly claimed. That is, applicant's claims encompass virtually any fish virus vaccine (it is noted that the product (vaccine) is claimed irrespective of the method of making). However, the disclosure provides discussion of IPNV and NNV as the vaccines contemplated. As such, limiting the scope of the claims commensurate with that which has been described would be acceptable. Again, the disclosure fails to provide an adequate written description for subject matter encompassing other viruses.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification does not reasonably enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. As set forth above, the claim is essentially drawn toward a virus grown in a cell line derived from grouper. It is asserted that the claims as reasonably interpreted could encompass virtually any fish virus vaccine, none of which (with the exception of IPNV and NNV) are adequately supported by the disclosure. Applicants are reminded of the legal considerations governing enablement determinations pertaining to undue experimentation as disclosed in *In re Wands*, 8

Art Unit: 1648

U.S.P.Q. 546 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. Int., 1986). The courts' concluded that several factual inquiries should be considered when making such assessments including the quantity of experimentation necessary, the amount of direction or guidance presented, the presence or absence of working examples, the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the relative skill of those in that art, the predictability or unpredictability of the art and the breadth of the claims. *In re Rainer*, 52 C.C.P.A. 1593, 347 F.2d 574, 146 U.S.P.Q. 218 (1965). The disclosure fails to provide adequate guidance pertaining to some of these considerations:

- 1) The breadth of the claimed invention encompasses an inordinate number of fish virus, most all are inadequately supported by the disclosure as stated above.
- 2) The disclosure fails to meet the legal requirements dictating that the scope of the claims must bear a reasonable correlation to the scope of enablement provided by the specification. *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839, 166 U.S.P.Q. 18, 24 (C.C.P.A. 1970). *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (C.A.F.C. 1991). *In re Angstadt*, 537 F.2d 498, 502-03, 190 U.S.P.Q. 214, 218 (C.C.P.A. 1976). The court stated in *In re Vaeck* that "there must be sufficient disclosure, either through illustrative examples or terminology, to teach those of ordinary skill how to make and how to use the invention as broadly as it is claimed. This means that the disclosure must adequately guide the art worker to determine, without undue experimentation, which species among all those encompassed by the claimed genus possess the disclosed utility. Where, as here, a claimed genus represents a diverse group of species (i.e, the vaccines support a multitude of different viral species), the required level of disclosure will be greater than, for example, the disclosure of an invention involving a "predictable" factor such as a mechanical or electrical element."

Art Unit: 1648

The prior art fails to provide sufficient guidance pertaining to the structural requirements of analogous elements. Accordingly, when the aforementioned factors are considered together, it would clearly require undue experimentation to practice the claimed invention.

The specification is objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to provide an enabling disclosure.

The invention requires ATCC deposit No. PTA-859. Since the cell line is essential to the claimed invention it must be obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification or otherwise be readily available to the public. The cell line is not fully disclosed, nor has it been shown to be publicly known and freely available. The enablement requirements of 35 USC 112 may be satisfied by a deposit of PTA-859. The specification does not disclose a repeatable process to obtain the cell line and it is not apparent if it is readily available to the public. Accordingly, it is deemed that a deposit of PTA-859 should have been made in accordance with 37 CFR 1.801-1.809.

If the deposit was made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by applicants, or a statement by an attorney or record over his or her signature and registration number, stating that the specific strains have been deposited under the Budapest Treaty and that the strains will be irrevocably and without restriction or condition be released to the public upon the issuance of a patent, would satisfy the deposit requirement made herein.

If the deposit has not been made under the Budapest treaty, then in order to certify that the deposit meets the criteria set forth in 37 CFR 1.801-1.809, applicants may provide assurance of compliance by an affidavit or declaration, or by a statement by an attorney or record over his or her signature and registration number, showing that:

Art Unit: 1648

(a) during the pendency of this application, access to the invention will be afforded to the Commissioner upon request;

(b) all restrictions upon availability to the public will be irrevocably removed upon granting the patent;

(c) the deposit will be maintained in a public depository for a period of 30 years or 5 years after the last request or for the effective life of the patent, whichever is longer; and

(d) the deposit will be replaced if it should ever become inviable.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth in the objection to the specification.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dorson et al. (Journal of Fish Diseases, 1978, 1, 309-320).

Dorson et al. clearly discuss the immunogenicity of a non-pathogenic variant of IPNV.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laurie Scheiner, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0910. Due to a flexible work schedule, the examiner's hours typically vary each day. However, the examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel, can be reached on (571) 272-0902.

Art Unit: 1648

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Correspondence related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). Official communications should be directed toward the following central fax number: (703) 872-9306.



Laurie Scheiner/LAS
June 17, 2004



LAURIE SCHEINER
PRIMARY EXAMINER